GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3100
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WTO AGREEMENTS
MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the exact achievements gained by the country since India signed the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) in the WTO;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the share of developed countries in agro-trade had gone up by 15 percent since the Uruguay round of WTO negotiations;

(c) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the developed countries have fulfilled their obligations of withdrawing their subsidies on agricultural production and exports; and

(e) If not, whether the Government are considering proposals to defer the Final round discussions for some more time for implementation of implications?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a): India is a founder member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and a signatory to the Agreement on Agriculture, (AoA) which came into force on 1.1.l995. WTO provides a predictable rule based multilateral trading system which protects the developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed trading partners. By virtue of signing of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, India is automatically entitled to get the most favoured nation (MFN) and national treatment for its exports from all other members. As per WTO Statistics India`s share in world exports of agriculture commodities which was at 1.3% for the period 1991-1994 stood at 1.9% for the year 1998.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d) & (e): The developed countries appear to have fulfilled their obligations under the AoA by reducing their export subsidies and their Total Aggregate Measurement of Support which is the measure of the trade distorting domestic support, though in some cases this has been achieved by taking advantage of the disciplines of the AoA. Keeping this in view, India in its proposals for the ongoing mandated negotiations under the AoA has called for the inclusion of all trade distorting domestic support measures in the calculations of the Total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) which would have to be subjected to reduction commitments if above the deminimis level.